

# THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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## THE DISPENSARY MEASURE.

The fact that the Reform Bureau's bill to abolish the liquor traffic in Hawaii admits that it is powerless to stop drinking or treating in homes is made more of by the Star than occasion warrants. No law can constitutionally invade a private home to examine a man's sideboard or see whether he gives wine to his guests. The manufacture of beer, wine and spirituous liquors may be stopped in a given place; the sale of them for a direct or indirect consideration may be prohibited; but so long as the Supreme Court will not hold against the free passage on lines of transportation of alcoholic preparations, it is not practicable to prevent private householders from importing such goods. Nor can such householders be held accountable for the use they make of them so long as that use contains no elements of purchase or sale. It is, therefore, no defect in a law that it acknowledges the existence of these immunities.

Says the Star: "In fact the Crafts proposition would be neither more nor less than one to deluge Hawaii with mail order intoxicants. Such a flood of drink would be all the more disastrous from its going direct into the homes, and into homes, in many cases even of drinkers, where liquor is not now to be found."

Any existing laws on the subject, including those of the Southern States, necessarily leave the way open to mail order or express order intoxicants—but is that any reason why decent people should endure the saloon? The major part of drunkenness is the product of the saloon with its more or less attractive sociability. A man starts home with his wages in his pocket. He hears a saloon and sees a friend or two go in. The bright lights, the genial cheer, the comfortable chairs and polished tables, the free lunch and the up-to-date gossip attract him. He thinks he will just drop in for a drink and a chat. Once in, there is treating all around, and in an hour he is drunk and has spent two or three dollars; perhaps more, if there is a card room handy. Suppose, on the other hand, the saloon wasn't there. Suppose there were no saloons in town. Wouldn't the man go home with his money? Would he hurry to buy a postal order to send to a wholesaler on the Coast for an invoice of gin? Would he sneak up an alley to a blind pig to get a drink of raw spirits in a tin cup from a Chinaman? Not once in fifty times. Unless a confirmed sot—in which case he would not be much of a wage-earner—he would forget about the drink and hurry along home so as not to be late for supper.

But the dispensary, what of that? The Star holds that the "honorable ethics of the medical profession would very likely be corrupted." That is to say, enough doctors would give false prescriptions to make the law inoperative. We have a better opinion of doctors than that; and we have faith that a law could be framed that would make Hawaii a rather unprofitable place for physicians who violated the letter and spirit of such a dispensary act as is now proposed. In any case, the dispensary would not get one customer where a saloon gets ten. There is not sociability in a dispensary; and a man must be hard put to take his wages to a physician, buy a prescription and go around to a dispensary to get a bottle filled. The sociable class of drinkers had rather go without.

The curious fact is noted in discussions of this sort that the critics of anti-liquor laws always set up the plea that such laws are never wholly remedial and are therefore not worth passing. Only for a statute against strong drink do they demand the standard of absolute perfection. They do not ask for this boon in laws against murder, theft or arson. They freely admit that the effect of these measures would merely be to reduce the number of such crimes and hold them in check, but that, despite the laws, there would still be some homicides, some robberies and some incendiarism. Would it not be fair to apply the same rule to prohibitory statutes and admit that society would be vastly better for them even if, not infrequently, the surreptitious hand should raise the unlicensed cocktail to the inopportune lip?

So far as the new bill is concerned we do not understand that its form, as published in the Advertiser, is necessarily final. Its text is still open to amendment; and we want to see what may be proposed. Able as the Star is in its discussion of the measure, we can not see that it has stated any vital objections.

## LEGISLATION ON HEALTH.

Health matters because of the meddling and muddling of former legislatures have got in a bad way. Among other things it is no longer possible to segregate lepers without their consent; and the number who refuse to go to Molokai has steadily increased. Something is being done in mitigation along lines proposed by the Governor; but mitigation is not enough.

It is now proposed by the ignorant section of the Legislature to starve out the food commissioner and cut out the bacteriologist. The food commissioner is doing a work of the very first importance; and but for him Hawaii would be, as before, the dumping place of foods, particularly canned foods, which had been made unsalable on the Coast by adverse action of health boards. Formerly there were frequent auctions here of condemned provender sent from all over the West; now, thanks to the ability and industry of the food commissioner, there are no such auctions.

The bacteriologist has done as much to prevent epidemics as the food commissioner has to prevent ptomaine poisoning. When there is a case of suspicious sickness, be it plague, cholera, diphtheria, smallpox or any deadly and communicable malady, his services are required. He puts some tell-tale substance to the test, he discovers what the disease is and he sounds the warning. Then the Health Board acts and acts with knowledge, thus saving the lives of hundreds of susceptible people. In the matter of preventing the transfer to Molokai of suspects who are not lepers his services have been invaluable. Fifteen per cent of suspects sent from the other islands under the old law were saved from that fate by the present bacteriologist expert.

No legislator with an ounce of knowledge or a spoonful of brains would think of interfering with either official; not only for scientific reasons, but because if this sort of thing goes on the Federal government will be likely to interfere in a way that will work a great hardship to Hawaiians.

## DISPOSAL OF THE PHILIPPINES.

"If we should have a war with Japan," remarked an Eastern paper some weeks ago, "we should certainly lose the Philippines." Whereupon a crisp contemporary replied with emphasis: "Bring on your war!" It was an epigrammatic way of saying that the American people would make a large sacrifice for the sake of ridding themselves of the Oriental incubus. Assuredly, on that account, the vast majority of them will wish Ocampo de Leon good luck in his appeal to Congress for Philippine independence, as a gift of grace.

The United States does not need the Philippines in its business. It does not want to go to the expense of trying to defend them. It does not want their mongrel population embraced within American citizenship. It does not want to be a party at interest in Far Eastern complications. It does not like the idea of governing an alien people against their will. It is not friendly to the plan of submitting home industries to the competition of cheap labor even in its own colonies.

This country does not, at the same time, like to lose the money it has paid out on Philippine account; but if independence were given the archipelago, the Manila government would be willing to bond itself for a reasonable amount to pay off the debt, guaranteeing the customs receipts for that purpose. Given a treaty to such effect with an agreement between the United States, Great Britain and Japan guaranteeing the independence of the Philippines, and we could retire from our Asiatic foothold with dignity and turn our energies of expansion into inviting fields of trade and internal development.

And why not?

The Germans are not only making airships that mean business but portable ordnance to destroy them. Krupp has got out a 6.5 centimetre field-piece which can be instantly pointed upward at an angle of 45 degrees and aimed with the use of a mirror and range-finder at the breech. By an ingenious device the wheels are so disposed as to handle the recoil and keep the gun from tipping over. A special burning shell has been devised to explode the gas bag of the airship. However, the aerial navies need not be alarmed, as they can always drop explosives a good deal farther than the new Krupp gun can life a projectile.

The man who stood at Togo's right hand in the greatest naval battle of all times, in command of the flagship of the victorious fleet, may feel assured that his welcome to Honolulu is not confined to any race.

The Senate is against annual sessions of the Legislature in which respect it has a family likeness to the people who pay the taxes.

## EVANGELIST PREACHERS

(Continued From Page One.)

ator's permission and he relaxed. "Cert'nly gents," he said; "the place goes to youse."

Mr. Asher is a fine manly man, a mixer and a good judge of human nature. He got up on a stool and had not spoken a dozen words before the bar business ceased. Jerry got so interested that he stopped selling booze and even an order for three cold bottles and a chaser could not have brought him out of his trance. Everybody gathered about, some taking chairs and removing their hats. The preacher did not pose or snuff; he talked good sense and did it in a companionable way and when he asked his hearers to bow their heads while he made a little prayer, the heads went down without a flinch. Then the minister with a gentle "God bless you," quietly withdrew with his friend Super. More than one man who had entered the saloon for a drink went also, without getting it.

The flaming sign of the "Two Jacks" was just across the way. "Let's go there," said the minister. There was quite a crowd in "Jacks," but a whispered word with one of the proprietors got the evangelist his chance. He did not begin preaching at once. First he wanted to show the crowd a little portable organ he had; and as he explained its mysteries the crowd got interested. He ventured a note or two. So as to be better seen and heard he stood up on a chair, told a story which pleased everybody, and, before the audience knew it, he was driving home some Gospel truths. "How many of you came from Christian homes?" he asked; "those who did, please raise their hands." And every hand went up; and there was moisture in eyes that were long unused to tears.

"That feller is all to the good," said "Jerry." "He don't make any crack against the liquor business; he just talks about getting out in the open air and being a man, and I can't see anything wrong with that. As to being a Christian, if every guy that butted in here to buy a drink was as good a Christian as that guinea, this town and every other town I know of would be a whole lot better."

At the other saloon the head bartender was even more emphatic in his praise of the great saloon evangelist. Said he: "That young man came in in the most modest way and handed me a clean line of talk. He had a composition in the way of an organ that made a hit with me right off. Fennell was there and said that music in saloons was against orders. But if I had had my way, I would have suspended business and had him play his hymn tunes for an hour."

A wedding will take place in Oakland today which will be of interest to Honoluluans. Miss Irma Woodward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Woodward of Santa Rosa, and J. Allen Wallis of Dubuque, Ia., will be married by the bride's grandfather, Rev. Walter Frear, relative of Governor Frear.

It was her first ball game. She lived in Pittsburgh, too. Yet there she sat in the crowded grand stand, gazing out at her home team battling against the Chicago Cubs for the pennant. "Harry," she inquired, during a lull in the excitement, "which is the great Wagner?" Her escort gallantly pointed out the famous Pittsburgh shortstop. "My!" exclaimed she, after scanning Honus's bow-legged figure awhile, "who'd ever think that man could write operas!"

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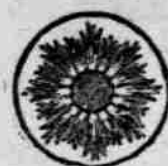
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